

FRIENDS OF HOB MOOR
Registered Charity No.1084566



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

TRUSTEES Holding Office During the Year:

S. Luxton (Chairperson)	J. Wood. Co-opted
M. Thornton (Secretary)	S. Wherrett
R. Gray (Treasurer)	A. Gray.
C. Colbourn (Membership Secretary)	J. Tull
N. Marpole (Newsletter Editor) Co-opted	
I. Tomlinson.	
J. Jackson	P. Foster
E.Tomlinson	

Public Benefit:

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Governing Document & Objectives Of The Charity:

Friends Of Hob Moor is a Charitable Unincorporated Association and it is governed by its agreed constitution adopted in Oct 1998.

Its objectives are:

1. To work in collaboration with others to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Hob Moor.
2. To promote Hob Moor as an open space amenity for education, recreation and leisure time occupation.
3. To promote research into the history and ecology of Hob Moor.

Introduction:

Committee met 5 times since October's 2017 AGM. We concentrated on the Land Management of Hob Moor. The Stewardship Scheme comes to an end in 2020 and at the moment the future is not known although the Committee are researching many possibilities that could lie ahead. Considering we concentrated on Land Management we had the mowing of the Moor on June 20th that was devastating to us and many people who love, care, and watch Hob Moor. Two statements by City of York Council are below. We continue to negotiate with the Council for new policies to ensure that a cutting in the manner it did will never happen again. Committee Officers met with the Ecology dept at Council offices and also met with Natural England to ascertain what went wrong, future protection and as Friends of Hob Moor on your behalf to express shock and sadness at the occurrence of this year's early excessive "cut".

York Council Statements: Regarding the early mowing of Hob Moor 2 statements issued in July.

As you are probably aware, the council has been in a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England since 2010 and there is a farm business tenancy agreement on the land. The intention of the cutting (also known as 'topping') that took place on the 20th June was to control weeds on site, in particular to prevent creeping thistle from flowering and therefore spreading, in order to meet the biodiversity objectives in the HLS agreement.

However the topping was carried out too early (before the 1st July) and over too large an area. This was due to a communication breakdown and not an intentional disregard of the requirements of the HLS agreement or the sensitivities of Hob Moor.

Natural England have written to City of York Council to advise that they will be making an assessment of the severity of the impact of the breach in the agreement on the delivery of the objectives of the scheme; we have not been provided with a timescale for this but will comply with any action that they require.

We are working with the tenant farmer to improve lines of communication, refresh understanding of the restrictions and objectives of the HLS agreement, and of wider wildlife issues to ensure this error doesn't happen again.

I have been liaising with both Natural England and the tenant farmer over the last week, and responding to individual residents who have contacted me.

The cutting was undertaken with the aim of controlling weeds on site, however it has been established that it was cut too early and over too large an area. This was due to a communication breakdown and not an intentional disregard of the requirements of the Higher Level Stewardship agreement.

Natural England are investigating this breach in the agreement and are assessing the severity of the impact on the aims of the HLS and on the land. I have been cooperating with them and they will be formally writing to the council in due course with the outcome of this; the council may incur a financial penalty.

I will be working with the tenant farmer to improve lines of communication and refresh his understanding of the restrictions of the HLS agreement. I will also speak with our property team to see if it is appropriate to issue a formal warning through the farm business tenancy agreement.

Website & Social Media:

Peter Monether our IT support with 2 other Committee members were a big help in refreshing and updating our website. We had a fresh pair of eyes in John Tull a new Committee member to suggest various new angles on the website layout. Do take a look at www.fohm.org.uk. The website has lots of information and downloads available keeping our browsers informed. Twitter and Facebook continue to be well used particularly this summer for the expression of anger and sadness by everyone to the early aggressive “Cutting” of the Moor. Many people were directed to the Council to express their concerns to which everyone received a reply.

Stewardship & Management:

Last year’s 2017 Annual Report information and statement is still very relevant this year and for the sake of repeating please do refer back to this section in the report. For 2018/9 it is established that we have stronger assertive links with City of York Council Ecology officers/dept and also Natural England who have a base in Peasholme in the city, where we have met together in the offices and will have meetings in the future both in offices and site visits to Hob Moor to discuss the Land Management.

Thanks Go To:

We thank Ian Tomlinson and John Tull for their commitment to advertising our events. Thanks to Elizabeth Tomlinson for the work in booking our various events Leaders and AGM speakers. To John Wood for his support at the West

Bank Summer Fair transporting our equipment. To Candi Colbourn our Membership Secretary keeping our members informed of up and coming Events. We hope our members and the people of York feel well informed of all our events via e-mail, posters, social Media, website and notice boards including Community Halls and Ward notice boards. The popularity of the Bird Walks by RSPB representative Barry Bishop has now extended to a 2nd walk in the Year.

Practical Work:

Our thanks go to the many volunteer Litter Collectors who as is very noticeable keep Hob Moor clear of unsightly cans and plastic bottles etc. Windsor Garth entrance notice board stands proud now as do the Leaflet Dispensers which are replenished. It is good to see that our new leaflets are useful to those passing. New notice section fronts have been replaced, some at our cost and some funded. Thanks again go to Ian Tomlinson who regularly walks Hob Moor and notices a padlock missing on a gate for example and duly reports it to the Council. As we all walk on Hob Moor we are all eyes that can report an issue, a problem, a fence down or indeed a keyed bike trailer/wheelchair gate left unlocked in error. If you are strong enough the gate can be slammed shut. Friends of Hob Moor paid for the repair of the Lidl entrance notice board. We continued to extend our advertising by issuing posters to the Libraries, local supermarkets, the Ward notice boards and community Halls in the area.

Events Feedback:

West Bank Summer Fair :

It was a hot day without the usual wind which makes for difficulty keeping things on our Stand from blowing away. We sold our Photo Cards for a total of £53; we signed up seven new members and sold two of Hob Moor's Aerial View as there was intrigue to find ones house on it.

Bird Walk :

6.00 am on April 29th 7 people joined Barry Bishop from the RSPB for a bird walk. We met on Little Hob Moor, went through the tunnel into the woodland but had to re-trace our steps as the boundary beck water was too high to cross. So we walked on to the main Moor and the recently arrived cows in North Lane pasture were surprised to see so many humans watching them!

It was a very quiet morning for birds but Barry pointed out the following

Bull finch, Chiffchaff, Dunnock, Blue tit, Crow (with an egg in its beak), Herring gull, Robin, Great tit, Wren, Black cap, Greylag goose, Song thrush, Mallards & Moorhen.

We finished the walk by walking over Little Hob Moor to the Railway Pond and thanked Barry for his additional amusing anecdotes.

Nature Walk :

On the evening of the 18th May 16 adults & 2 children met by the tunnel on Little Hob Moor and made their way over to the copse where Ian Tomlinson gave a brief account of work being done there. Malcolm Cresser of Mayfield Community Trust then explained about the management of the trees on the meadow area. Steve Hart then lead the group over to the Railway Pond where we watched a seagull looking for fish. Steve then informed the group about the improved work done by the volunteers, especially the fishing pegs. A very informative evening enjoyed by all.

Butterfly Walk With Tony Fairburn 28.07.2018 :

The hot weather broke the previous day with heavy rain, lightning and thunder. So, the butterfly day was cool, sunny, windy & showery - not what we wanted. Three people turned up for the walk. Two from the committee.

Tony brought along nets and an ID chart for us.

We saw 11 species of butterfly and few moths. We started on Little Hob Moor, walked around the MCT area and finished on the triangle.

Not the best of days for butterfly hunting but well worth doing.

Bat Walk 25.08.2018 :

On a clear night 14 people (including 2 children) gathered on Little Hob Moor for a night of bat detection. There was no wind and it wasn't cold, in fact, just right for this event. Once again Clair Merrifield led us on this walk & talk and gave us plenty of information about bats.

We all had bat detectors which were going constantly with activity. The 2 children found this a really interesting evening

The bat we saw & heard was a Pipistrelle. There are three species of this bat, but it would only be the common one we heard & saw in the dim light.

After spending a short time on Little Hob Moor we then went through the tunnel on to the main Moor staying near the hedgerow.

Hob Moor on Radio York

On Sunday August 26th between 11am and Noon Candi Colburn and Elizabeth Tomlinson were interviewed during the programme about Hob Moor. They both gave very positive, informative history and up-to-date snippets. The link is on our Facebook page if you want to listen. We hope that those people who did listen will now venture out on to Hob Moor and discover it for themselves.

Declaration:

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Stephanie Luxton, Chairperson

11th September 2018